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The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"Because I have seen the papers."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"What are the papers that he has seen? Will he be pleased to place those papers on the table?"

Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA:—"May I know as to why there has been an increase in the number of suicides? Is it due to low wages?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"This is a central subject, and we, as agents of the Government of India, are unable to give any further information in the matter."

Mr. ABDUL HAMID KHAN:—"As agents of the Government of India are they not carrying out the wishes of the Government of India, and is it not therefore their duty to safeguard the interests of the labourers who are going from this Presidency by advising the Government of India?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"I must ask for notice."

Mr. K. V. R. SWAMI:—"Is it a fact that suicides are on the increase on account of oppression?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"I must ask for notice."

Mr. R. NAGAN GOWDA:—"It has been stated in the answer that there has been an increase in suicides in the year 1926–27. May I know what is the rate of increase?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"I want notice."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"On a point of order, Mr. President. My hon. Friend, the Home Member, says 'we are agents of the Government of India and therefore we cannot answer these questions.' Is it right?"

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"After these questions are over the hon. Member will raise the point."

Mr. P. ANJANEYULU:—"May I know, Sir, whether this Government, who sent the coolies to Andamans and who are responsible for their lives, made any enquiries in the matter?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"We made all the enquiries that we could possibly make regarding Malaya."

Mr. P. ANJANEYULU:—"Has this Government made any enquiry as to the cause of increase in suicides?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"I want notice."

Report of the Standard Wage Inquiry Committee.

*1276 *Q.*—Mr. C. GOPALA MENON: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government of Madras are in receipt of the report of the Standard Wage Inquiry Committee appointed by the Indian Immigration Committee of the Federated Malay States;

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(b) if the answer to (a) is in the affirmative whether he will be pleased to place it on the table of the House; and

(c) whether the Government of Madras have expressed their views on the said report; and if so, what they are?

A.—As the hon. Member is aware 'Emigration' is a central subject The report referred to has not been received. There has been correspondence between the Government of India and the local Government on the question of the fixation of standard rates of wages for Indian labourers in Malaya, but the Government are not prepared to place it on the table.

Mr. C. Gopal Menon:—"May I know whether the report of the Standard Wages Enquiry Committee has not been published or whether this Government has not received the report yet?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur:— "Notice, Sir."

Dr. B. S. Mallayya:—"May I know why the Government say that they are not prepared to place the report on the table of the House?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur:— "I have already answered that question."

Dr. B. S. Mallayya:—"I want a reply to this question."

Mr. S. Satyamurti:—"May I know what are the reasons for the Government to say that they decline to place on the table the correspondence between this Government and the Government of India on the Standard Wages Enquiry Committee?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur:—"I have already said, it is a confidential matter. As the hon. the President has suggested, I may say that it is undesirable to disclose it on public grounds."

Mr. S Satyamurti:—"May I know what are the public interests that will be adversely affected by placing this correspondence on the table of the House?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur:—"I have already answered it."

Mr. R. Nagan Gowda:—"May I know whether the correspondence between the Government of India and this Government on the fixation of standard rates of wages to the labourers in Malaya has been kept confidential in the interests of the planters?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur:— "No, Sir."

Labour

Economic condition of labourers in plantations.

*1277 Q.—Mr. J. A. Saldanha: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state what steps are being taken in view of the repeal of the Madras Planters' Labour Act for enquiring into and ascertaining the condition and the amenities of life of the labour population recruited for the plantations in the districts of Malabar, Coimbatore and Nilgiris and for bringing forward the necessary legislation to secure for them the same?